

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 7-18 and 21-29 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 3-6 have been canceled and new claims 28 - 29 have been added. Claims 1, 7, 14, 21, 26 and 28 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 26 and 27 are allowed over the prior art of record.

New claims 28 and 29 are apparatus claims corresponding to allowed method claims 26 and 27. Thus, indication of allowance of claims 28 and 29 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-11 and 13-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. and Ohler et al. Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. and Ohler et al. in view of Theimer et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's allegations made in rejecting these claims, but to advance prosecution only, each of independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 has been amended to incorporate therein the features indicated by the Examiner as allowable subject matter as set forth at paragraph 5, page 12 of the last Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 and their dependent claims (due to the dependency) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

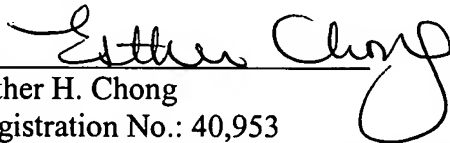
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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